Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of covering an opening in a laboratory container with aluminum foil to provide a heat-resistant and solvent-resistant closure, comprising the steps of:

providing a preformed aluminum foil cup of sufficient size to cover said opening, wherein the aluminum foil forming said cup is approximately 0.0003 to approximately 0.002 inches thick, said cup is free of any substance that could contaminate said container, ~~and wherein~~ said cup comprises a bottom wall and a raised perimeter sidewall continuous with, and surrounding said bottom wall, and said cup tolerates exposure to heat of at least 300 degrees C;

~~inverting and~~ placing said cup in an inverted orientation over said opening; optionally adjusting the shape and size of said cup so as to fit over said opening, and

compressing the sidewall of said cup to a friction fit around said opening.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cup is sterile.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said cup has been sterilized by a process selected from the group consisting of radiation sterilization and gas sterilization.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~4~~ wherein said aluminum foil is between approximately 0.0005 and approximately 0.001 inches thick.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the shaping of said cup is produced using a mechanical forming die that utilizes a forming means selected from the group consisting of pressure, heat, and a combination thereof.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cup is an open dish-shaped structure selected from the group consisting of tubs, trays, cups, bowls, canisters and other vessels that are free of any structural features that would interfere with the use of said cup as a covering for a laboratory container opening.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the surface shape of said sidewall is selected from the group including pleated, fluted, crinkled and dimpled.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the length measured across the largest dimension of said bottom wall is between 1 inch and 6 inches.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the height of said perimeter wall is between 0.25 inches and 2.5 inches.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said height is between 0.5 inches and 1.5 inches.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cup is manufactured without using a lubricant that could contact and contaminate said cup or multiple cups in a nested stack of similar cups.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said container is selected from the group consisting of a beaker, a flask, a bottle, a graduated cylinder, a test tube, a centrifuge tube, a cuvette, a vial, and a scoop.

14-18 Cancelled

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said cup is manufactured using a shaped cup-forming tool and die with interleaf sheets between cups to form multiple cups simultaneously in a stack.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said cup is removed from an inverted stack of said cups.